

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 166469
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 INT-05 OES-07 CG-00 DOTE-00
FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00
DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-13 NSF-01 NSC-05
NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02 FMC-01 DLOS-09
/111 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CAN:JBROH-KAHN:MH

APPROVED BY EUR/CAN:JHROUSE,JR.

EUR/CAN:KKJONIETZ

L/OES:JBAILLY

L/EB:JCROOK

INTERIOR:MR. PELLiot

USCG:CMDR. HICKEY

-----086842 161953Z /65

R 160207Z JUL 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166469

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJECT: FACT SHEET ON ALASKA TANKER TRAFFIC -- PUGET SOUND

1. WITH MOVEMENT OF TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM OIL ABOUT TO BEGIN INTO PUGET SOUND AREA, WE SEE NEED FOR FACT SHEET TO MEET GROWING AND POTENTIALLY UNINFORMED PUBLIC CONCERN IN BOTH COUNTRIES ABOUT LIKELIHOOD OF TANKER SPILLS. AT MAY MEETING WITH GOC ON VESSEL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, POSSIBILITY OF AGREED APPROACH TO PUBLIC INFORMATION WAS DISCUSSED. FOLLOWING IS DRAFT TEXT OF PROPOSED FACT SHEET THAT COULD BE USED BY BOTH COUNTRIES FOR CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 166469

PRESS RELEASE OR AS BACKGROUND. IF EMBASSY CONCURS, IT SHOULD BE PASSED ERIK WANG IN EXTAFF TO REVIEW IN HOPE TWO SIDES CAN REACH AGREEMENT ON ELEMENTS AT OR BEFORE BI-LATERAL MEETING ON VESSEL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM NOW SCHEDULED JULY 19-20.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE US AND CANADA HAVE BEEN WORKING CLOSELY

TOGETHER ON MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT TANKER TRAFFIC BRINGING ALASKAN OIL TO THE PUGET SOUND AREA OPERATES WITH MINIMUM RISK TO THE ENVIRONMENT. A NUMBER OF MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO PROVIDE FOR SAFE VESSEL NAVIGATION AND EFFECTIVE HANDLING OF POTENTIAL POLLUTION PROBLEMS.

3. WHEN ALASKAN OIL STARTS TO MOVE SOUTHWARD, ONLY 2.8 TAPS TANKERS ON THE AVERAGE ARE EXPECTED TO TRANSIT THE PUGET SOUND AREA PER WEEK. THIS TAPS TRAFFIC WILL INCREASE ONLY SLIGHTLY THE AVERAGE OF 4.4 TANKER TRANSITS PER DAY IN THE AREA DURING THE SIX MONTHS ENDING LAST APRIL. THIS LEVEL IS NOT EXPECTED TO INCREASE FOR SOME TIME, UNLESS AND UNTIL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO MOVE CRUDE OIL THROUGH THIS INLAND AREA RATHER THAN VIA OTHER ROUTES, AND THE REQUIRED FACILITIES ARE COMPLETED. NO SUCH MOVES ARE ANTICIPATED IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

4. ALL TAPS TANKERS WILL BE US FLAG VESSELS WITH EXPERIENCED US CREWS. THEY ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE MODERN EQUIPMENT WITH EFFECTIVE BACK-UP SYSTEMS SUCH AS RUDDER-ANGLE INDICATOR, GYRO COMPASS, FATHOMETER, LORAN-C NAVIGATION EQUIPMENT AND A COLLISION AVOIDANCE SYSTEM. THESE REQUIREMENTS ENSURE THAT TAPS VESSELS WILL HAVE FULLY EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, NAVIGATION AND COLLISION AVOIDANCE CAPABILITIES IN OPERATION AS ALL TIMES DURING TRANSIT OF THESE WATERS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 166469

5. A JOINT CANADA-US MARINE POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN SIGNED IN 1974 PROVIDES FOR CLOSE, COOPERATIVE ACTION TO COMBAT POSSIBLE SPILLS. THE TWO COUNTRIES IN 1975 ESTABLISHED A TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME UNDER WHICH ONE-WAY TRAFFIC LANES SEPARATE INBOUND AND OUTBOUND VESSELS IN THE AREA. SINCE THEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE CONTINUED WORKING TOGETHER ON ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO INCREASE THE SAFETY OF TANKER TRAFFIC IN THE AREA. VESSELS MOVING TO AND FROM ALASKA WILL ENTER AND EXIT THE AREA VIA THE TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME AND BE SUBJECT TO CLOSE MONITORING BY US AND CANADIAN AUTHORITIES AT ALL TIMES WHILE IN THE SYSTEM. OUTSIDE THE STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA TAPS VESSELS FOLLOW A COURSE SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES OFF SHORE, AND DO NOT POSE A SIGNIFICANT & POLLUTION HAZARD.

6. THE TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE AUTHORIZATION ACT ALSO PROVIDES FOR A FUND OF \$100 MILLION TO PAY CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES FROM POSSIBLE DISCHARGES OF OIL BY THE US TANKERS ON A LIABILITY BASIS WITHOUT REGARD FOR FAULT. THE ACT EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZES SUCH PAYMENTS TO CANADIANS.

END TEXT. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, DATA, PIPELINES, CARGO SHIPS, OIL SPILLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE166469
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KAHN:MH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770254-0391
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770750/aaaabqsp.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c901366a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1840028
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FACT SHEET ON ALASKA TANKER TRAFFIC -- PUGET SOUND
TAGS: SENV, CA
To: OTTAWA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c901366a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009